

C.A.R.E.'s Critter Chronicles

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of the **Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.**

1528 27th Street S.E. • Ruskin, Florida 33570 • 813.645.2273 • www.careshelter.org

Dear Friends Of C.A.R.E.

Over the past five years, C.A.R.E. has been working hard to reduce the number of homeless animals in Hillsborough County. With your support, we have rescued and adopted over 1,100 animals.

If you are receiving this newsletter, you have helped us in some way. We are delighted to send you these quarterly newsletters but as printing and mailing costs continue to increase, we are checking in with you to make sure that you are still interested in hearing from us. We want to hear from you! Please e-mail Carrie Sullivan at UpdateCARE@hotmail.com in order to update your contact information (name, address, phone number(s) and e-mail address) or to let us know that you would rather not receive our mailings. If you would prefer to receive these newsletters online (via e-mail) instead of through the mail, let us know that too. You may also leave a phone message for Carrie at the shelter at 813-645-2273.

Additionally, to carry out our mission we can always use donations of expendable items. If you can help us out with any of the items on our "wish list" below, please indicate this on the postcard as well.

- Scoopable litter for our adult cats
- Heavy duty paper towels
- Heavy duty 13 gallon trash bags
- Printer Cartridges: HP 56 & 57
- Postage stamps
- Avery mailing labels (8160)
- Computer paper
- Computer photo paper

This year to date, 249 individuals have joined as new members or renewed last year's membership. Your membership dues help us budget medical expenses for the year. Last year we had over 300 members and this year the cost of medical needs of our cats and dogs has dramatically increased. Therefore, once again we urge you to join or renew your 2006 membership now by using the form on the next page. Please sign up today! We need your support as soon as possible to allow us to continue saving lives and treating sick residents. Our four-paw residents will thank you.



Looking for a special gift for a pet owner?

Call us for information on C.A.R.E. gift certificates at 813-645-2273. There is one for spaying or neutering dogs and cats and one for adopting one of our animals. Through the purchase of these certificates you will not only be helping one person and their pet but also helping to reduce the overpopulation of animals.

Board of Directors

President

Don Hinderliter

Vice President

Ginny Fairbank

Secretary

Kara Rutherford

Treasurer

Lori Bruno

Members

Roger Harker
Priscilla Mixon
Tim Otte

C.A.R.E. Hours of Operation

Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Newsletter Editor

Michelle Fitz



**C.A.R.E. is a
No-Kill Animal
Shelter**

Once Again—We Try To Save One At A Time

By Don Hinderliter

As you can see in the box at right, we average receiving 6 or 7 calls or visits each working day from people who want to relinquish an animal to us or have found a stray they would like turned in to a “no-kill” shelter. On the other hand, our adoption rate so far this year is about one animal per day. Simple math shows we cannot take all the animals “offered” to us.

Most callers or visitors understand our resource limitations (space/volunteers/finances) but we still get the frustrated individual who has “tried for weeks” to place an animal or the individual who insists we can take “just one more.” Our hearts break for those unfortunate animals we cannot take but we’ve tried different limitations and health protocols over the years and feel that our current ones work best for C.A.R.E., our animals, and our volunteers. To take in more would crowd those we have, jeopardize their health, lead to volunteer burn out, and stretch our finances. We try to help visitors and callers place the animals we cannot take with other shelters or area rescue groups, but are sometimes unsuccessful.

If you know of any of the “frustrated” individuals we refer to, please share our appreciation for their compassion but also suggest that they volunteer at C.A.R.E. on a regular basis for several weeks before passing judgment on the work of our current volunteers. In the meantime, we’ll gladly accept any constructive suggestions they may have on our policies, health protocols or other improvements they could help us make in fulfilling our mission.

By The Numbers

19	Monthly Average Of Pets Adopted From C.A.R.E. In 2005.
17	Monthly Average Of Pets Adopted From C.A.R.E. To Date In 2006.
125+	Monthly Average of Calls/Visits Received From People Wanting to Relinquish Or Shelter An Animal At C.A.R.E.
249	Current C.A.R.E. Memberships

Help Make A Difference...Join C.A.R.E. Today!

Please print neatly.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

May we occasionally send you C.A.R.E. updates via e-mail? YES NO

Membership Level: Regular Member \$30 donation
 Premier Member \$50 donation

Please send a check made payable to C.A.R.E. to the following address:

C.A.R.E./Attn: Membership
1528 27th Street S.E.
Ruskin, Florida 33570

New Member
 Renewal

Meet Our New Spay/Neuter Vets!

We welcome **Dr. Mary Hernandez** and **Dr. Mike Waldy** to C.A.R.E. They have joined Dr. Ott in performing spay/neuter surgeries in our low cost clinic, each working at least one day per month with assistants Gloria Blue and Tim Otte, to sterilize C.A.R.E. animals and those animals of low income residents within our area. Individuals who qualify for Hillsborough County vouchers, or who cannot afford to have their animals fixed by their regular veterinarians are eligible to schedule an appointment in our clinic. We want to thank Drs. Ott, Hernandez, and Waldy for participating in our efforts to control the population of unwanted dogs and cats—especially in South Hillsborough County!

Volunteer Spotlight(s) *By Don Hinderliter*

Our Spotlight typically shines on selected volunteers who help us out at the shelter. The recent opening of our new kennel remodeling project has, once again, reminded us that it truly takes a community effort to keep C.A.R.E. helping to save the lives of homeless animals. Consequently, I want to give thanks to several members of "our community" for the successful conclusion of this year's long effort.

- To those Board members and volunteers who for the past two years have assumed the duties which were formerly performed by a paid Executive Director. This has allowed us to accumulate the financial resources necessary to complete the renovation.
- To our members and donors who share our belief in the value of the lives of homeless animals and who demonstrated this belief through their financial support of C.A.R.E.
- To Dr. Hal Ott, Gloria Blue and Tim Otte who worked in an extremely cramped surgery room for the two years of renovation.

- To the Sun City Center Community Foundation for a recent grant which allowed us to update the kennel and office facility with many new fixtures for the health, safety and welfare of our animals and volunteers.
- To Tim Otte, Charlie Bruno, Jeff Rutherford and others for their time, dedication, and physical labor involved with the renovation.
- To the office volunteers who stuck with us for two years while working in a hot/cold (depending upon outside temperature), damp and unpleasant environment trying to rescue and/or place stray and homeless pets in a new and loving home.

This was truly a community effort by the above named and others, and I thank each and every one of you! We'll soon have an "open house" to celebrate—then on to a new cat facility!

Join Us For PetFest!

1st Annual St. Petersburg Times Ruskin PetFest & Adoption Reunion

When: Saturday, July 15, 2006
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Ott's Off-Leash Dog Park, 21st Street, Ruskin

Join us for a day of fun, music and special events including:

- Silent Auction (Bid on items donated by local merchants)
- Live Music by Buffalo Strange
- Pet Fashion Contest
- Monster Mural Painting for Children
- Dog Wash
- Free Admission

Bring your family, dog on a leash and lawn chairs & prepare for a fun-filled day. Food & refreshments available. All Proceeds To Benefit C.A.R.E. Presented by the St. Petersburg Times.

Directions: Take I-75 South to Exit #240B/FL-674 WEST onto COLLEGE AVE E toward RUSKIN. Go 1.6 mi. Turn right on 21ST ST SE. The dog park is on the right.

Don't Miss The C.A.R.E. Pet Reunion Linda Earles, our new Outreach Coordinator, along with our volunteers are busy planning the annual C.A.R.E. Pet Reunion to be held on July 15th at PetFest. Last year's reunion, which

was held at the shelter, was a lot of fun for people and pets alike. Invitations are going out to all who adopted from C.A.R.E. within the past few years.



Save the Date!

1st ANNUAL
St. Petersburg Times
Ruskin PetFest
2006

When:
Saturday, July 15 • 9am-4pm

Where:
Dr. Ott's Off Leash Dog Park
The park is easily accessible off of S.R. 674
21st St., S.E. and 3rd Ave., S.E. in Ruskin

For more information:
contact Irma Davila at (813) 661-2455 or ldavila@sptimes.com.

Microchip Plus Storm Equals Reunion *By John Fischer*

If Missy, a cocker spaniel mix, could speak or write, she would have some great tales to tell about the past three years.

During Tropical Storm Alberto, a couple found Missy wandering not far from Tampa Airport. She was wet and dirty. The couple knew they wouldn't be able to keep her because they lived in an apartment that doesn't allow pets but they wanted to help.

Missy was brought to the Animal Hospital of Tampa on W. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa. "They brought the dog to us to see what we could do," explained Anne Simpson, a receptionist at the veterinary facility. While checking out the frightened animal, the vets found she had a microchip which is used to identify animals. A check with the distributor of the microchip showed it came from the Critter Adoption and Rescue Shelter (C.A.R.E.). But the animal hospital was unable to reach anyone at C.A.R.E. because it was Monday, a day the facility is not open.

Missy was held overnight, something that the animal hospital doesn't usually do, explained Ms. Simpson. On Tuesday the vet's office was able to reach C.A.R.E.'s animal manager/coordinator, Gloria Blue. Gloria checked the records and found the microchip was from Missy who had been adopted about three years earlier by Laurie Noriega of Gibsonton. Mrs. Noriega told Gloria that Missy had been stolen from their fenced yard about 6 or 7 months after she adopted her.

"We checked with (Hillsborough County) Animal Services to no avail," Mrs. Noriega said. "We never thought we would see her again."

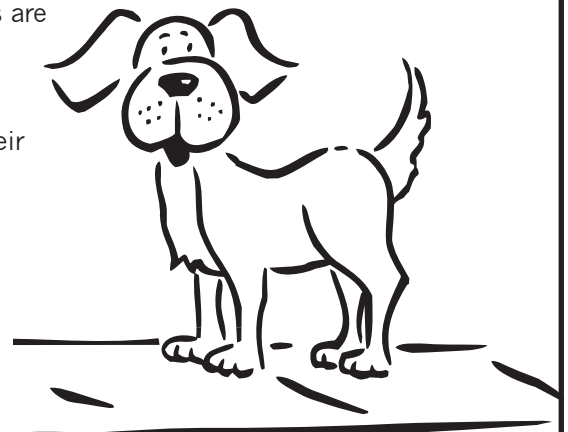
Mrs. Noriega was excited to hear that Missy had been found and was in her car on her way to the Animal Hospital of Tampa within minutes of getting off the phone with Gloria. Mrs. Noriega's reservations about Missy remembering her former owners turned out to be unfounded.

When she and her husband reached the vet's office, Missy was so happy to see them that "she jumped up on my husband and she went ape over my daughter JoMarie."

Missy is still a little hesitant about responding to her former name. "She must have had a different name" with her previous owners, said Mrs. Noriega.

Missy is getting along fine with the two other dogs the family now has—Lucky, a Pomeranian, and Monty, a poodle, said Mrs. Noriega.

"Microchips are wonderful. Everyone should get them for their animals," she gushed happily.



Dining With The Dogs?

Last month Governor Bush signed the "doggie dining" bill which gives local governments authority to allow restaurants to permit dogs to eat with their owners outside. Previously health regulations prevented all but service dogs from dining on the patio with their human friends. The measure creates a three-year pilot program with the state to determine whether to continue it. Allowing dogs to dine would be up to each county, and even if the county allows it, individual restaurant owners would still decide on their own whether to participate. The Governor said the bill will allow dog lovers and their pets to "have a brewski together, have a hot dog together, or whatever they want outdoors."



Ph: (813) 486-9978

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10% donated to
C.A.R.E. in client's name

Visit us on the web at www.watchfuleyepetcare.com

Support C.A.R.E.
Advertise With Us! Visit CaresShelter.org for more info.

In The News...

The shelter subscribes to a number of well respected publications in the field of animal care and behavior. These publications contain excellent articles and information that pet owners may find helpful. Beginning with this newsletter we will inform you about some of them. Copies of any of these articles may be obtained by calling Betsy at the shelter at 813-645-2273.

- **The National Animal Poison Control Center (NAPCC)** publishes a listing of some of the plants we may have in our gardens and/or homes which could be a hazard to your pet. Most are listed by their most common names. This listing is also available at the shelter.

If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, contact your veterinarian immediately. It is a good idea to know of their policy concerning emergencies. If they are unavailable, contact a local emergency service close to your location or alternatively you can contact the National Animal Poison Control Center (NAPCC) at 1-(800) 548-2423.

- ***Pet Quarterly*, Volume 3, Spring** contained two informative articles. One relates to a common cat problem and the other discusses heartworm, a very serious medical issue for dogs.

- **Inappropriate Cat Urination.** The cause(s) may be a hidden medical condition or a response to a particular medication. The cat may need sterilization or may be simply looking for a “better toilet.” In any case, a trip to your veterinarian is in order.

- **Heartworm Disease in Dogs.** This medical problem has been widely recognized throughout the world as one of the most important health problems affecting pets today. It has been documented in all states except Alaska, and even dogs given a preventative should be tested for heartworms on an annual basis.

- **Are you and your pets ready for another hurricane season?** A recent America Kennel Club survey reveals the following:

- 62% of dog owners would defy hurricane evacuation orders if forced to go to locations where they could not bring their pets.
- 76% of pet owners do not have vaccination records and extra food and water assembled in a portable pet disaster kit.
- 55% do not have a list of hotels that accept pets outside their area's evacuation zone.

There are publications that provide advice and recommendations for preparing yourself and your pets for the possibility of extended electrical outages and/or evacuations during the upcoming hurricane season. Betsy can provide you with copies and additional information on the two County shelters which allow pets, the website addresses of pet-friendly motels, suggestions on how to prepare your pets for a shelter stay, and tips on relieving stress for your pets.

In Memoriam...

In loving memory of Jay Ramsey, lifelong animal lover and avid C.A.R.E. supporter since the beginning. The Board of Directors and volunteers of C.A.R.E. honor his life and commitment to animals. He will be greatly missed and our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife Betty and family.

C.A.R.E. notes the passing of John Gaul Sr. A retired physician, John was the developer of C J's Deli and Café in Sun City Center. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Pets Help Through Difficult Times

A letter to C.A.R.E. from Betty Burke who adopted Molly, our 1,000th adoption.

“Thank you for *C.A.R.E.'s Critter Chronicles* with the article about Molly. Especially thank John Fischer for “getting on all fours” to snap her picture under the bed. And a super picture it is.

You don't know how much she has given me during this past month. Richard passed away on May 29, 2006—after an operation that his body just couldn't take—and Molly has been by my side comforting me each and every day. She is a dear and I feel her coming to me was ordained. I am tickled with her habit of drinking water—dips her paw into the bowl and then her mouth. Thank you again for all that was done for Molly and me.”

Hey! Pick Me! Pick Me!

These wonderful pets are looking for a good home! Stop by and meet them today!

To see more pets that are available for adoption visit www.careshelter.org or www.petfinder.org



DeeDee

DeeDee was found April 1st in a dumpster. She is a happy, healthy three month old pup. She is an active, energetic pup who loves people and can hardly wait for a family and home of her own.



Rascal

Rascal arrived at C.A.R.E. on May 26th when a man found him on his property. Rascal is about 5 months old and is an alert little fellow who was very willing to have his picture taken. He loves to explore and go for walks. He is eager to please, eager for love and eager to find a home of his own.



Noel

Noel was born in March 2005. She is an absolutely gorgeous cat! She is used to being an outdoor kitty. She spends most of her time on our screened in porch, in our cat house. When she arrived she was not very social, however, time and persistence will win her over.



Hildy

Hildy is a gray and brown Tabby with white paws and chest who we think is about 2 years old. She came to C.A.R.E. with her tiny kittens. Hildy was a wonderful mom to her kittens who have been adopted. Now Hildy is ready for a home of her own.

Leaving A Legacy *By Betsy Hinderliter*

The financial demands of a busy life: raising a family, buying a home, and dealing with increased medical expenses may limit your ability to make substantial charitable donations during your lifetime. However, through the accumulated assets of a lifetime of hard work you can remember us in your will. You will definitely make a difference in the lives of many animals, and you will certainly contribute to the financial well being of C.A.R.E. There are a number of ways you can leave a C.A.R.E. legacy and your attorney or financial advisor can provide you with more details.

For over five years we have been able to help many dogs and cats thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters. We are grateful to all of our benefactors and hope that we will continue to be recipients of their generosity. The animals in our care are the true beneficiaries and on behalf of them, we are grateful.

C.A.R.E. Legacy Circle We want to recognize the animal lovers who have been kind enough to leave a legacy from their estate to the shelter. We are grateful for the generous commitment to C.A.R.E. these individuals have made and would like to honor them with special recognition in our newsletter and at future events. **If you have already made provisions for a CARE Legacy, please let us know so that we can include you on this list.**

Website Of The Quarter

www.kittenwar.com

By Mike Fitz

Gosh, just look at the cute cats on this website. Ah, but one of them is cuter than the other, and with a single click of your mouse you get to decide which. You can peruse the gallery of feline cuteness and even check out each cat's battle stats. Dog people need not apply.



Donor Challenges Community To Help C.A.R.E.

By John Fischer

A Ruskin resident found a precious little gem in her community and wants the rest of her neighbors to learn about it.

Suzanne Hammon discovered C.A.R.E. (Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort) a while back when she took her cats to veterinarian Dr. Harold Ott in Ruskin. Dr. Ott is one of the founders of the no-kill animal shelter which is run by volunteers on public donations.

Mrs. Hammon, so impressed by C.A.R.E. efforts, recently donated \$200 and challenged others to "match or beat" the donation to help the animals.

"Let's all help out," she said. "I recognize that everyone can't make large monetary donations, just give what you can." The annual cost for regular members is \$30 while premier members contribute \$50 a year. Regular members receive the shelter's quarterly newsletter and are eligible to vote for members of the Board of Directors. Premier members, in addition to voting privileges and the newsletter, also get a C.A.R.E. tee-shirt that shows their support.

"What CARE is trying to do is to help these otherwise defenseless creatures. It's really a wonderful thing," Mrs. Hammon said.

"I'd like to help raise the awareness of this organization," she continued. "There are so many people who don't know about the selfless efforts of the volunteers. It is

phenomenal what these dedicated people do. If you can't afford to volunteer at the shelter, you can make a donation...anything to help the animals.

"A lot of new homes are being built in this area," Mrs. Hammon said. "These people are part of our community now. These new residents can become an integral part of our community by donating some time or donating money to help pay the medical costs of the shelter. There are a lot of good people in our community."

Mrs. Hammon, whose husband operates Hammon Construction, a commercial building contractor, suggests that local organizations, such as Boy and Girl Scouts, women's and fraternal groups, could be a big help in spreading the word.

"We need to raise the bar and do whatever we can to help the animals."

Since the organization was founded five years ago, more than 1,000 cats and dogs have been placed with loving and grateful families. Animals placed with families are spayed or neutered and up-to-date with routine shots.

Hours of operation for the shelter are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Volunteers work from about 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. C.A.R.E. is located at 1528 27th St. SE, Ruskin. For more information call the shelter at (813) 645-8933 or visit their website at www.careshelter.org.

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Fax 866.840.3856
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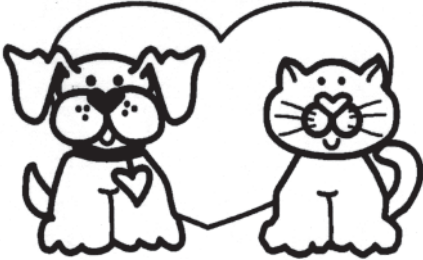
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Sharon Van Loan

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C.A.R.E.



Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.

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E-Mail

careshelter@aol.com

Web

www.careshelter.org

Wolfie's Story

Hi guys! It's me, Wolfie! I just wanted you to know that I'm doing great. My mommy and daddy take really good care of me and spoil me rotten—all I have to do is look cute and they'll give me whatever I want. I got over my heart-worm treatment and I'm back to getting two walks a day and weekend trips to the dog park to play with my new friends! They feed me really good here, too, with lots of food and treats (although they STILL won't give me what they're eating...jeesh!).

I can't wait to see you guys at the reunion. I'm very thankful for the love and care that all of you gave me while I waited for my forever home. I'll never forget you. I'll see you soon!

Always yours,
Wolfie G. Dille
(The 'G' stands for Guy, they call me that a lot)

